

Government
Publication

Ontario



Ministry of
Community and
Social Services

Community programs for pregnant teenagers

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Help is available for pregnant unmarried teenagers

The young woman and the father of the baby should discuss the pregnancy with their parents or guardians. It is also desirable to talk to a nurse, doctor, guidance counsellor, social worker or clergyman for assistance in making an informed decision about adoption or parenting. These people can also give advice on such things as medical attention and education during pregnancy. For those women who plan to keep their babies, information on housing, employment counselling and vocational training programs, financial assistance, parenting, child care and legal aid may also be needed.

A list of community services and programs which may assist women during and following pregnancy follows. For specific information about services in a particular area, see the white or yellow pages of the telephone directory. For government services see the blue pages. Community information centres can assist, as well, in locating services. To find out whether this type of service is available in a particular area, see the white or yellow pages or the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture listing in the blue pages.

Counselling

The following organizations may provide information on adoption, parenting, family planning, and personal and family problems to assist with informed decision making:

- children's aid societies;
- public health units;
- planned parenthood chapters;
- pro-life organizations (e.g. Birthright); and
- family service agencies.

Pre-natal medical and health care

Information on various subjects including pregnancy monitoring, nutritional counselling, instruction in breathing and exercise for labor and delivery, and breast feeding, can be obtained from:

- private physicians;
- public health units;
- community and hospital clinics; and
- local organizations (e.g. Childbirth Education Association, La Leche League).

Continuing education

Opportunities are available through:

- regular classroom instruction or home instruction;
- summer school or night school courses offered by the local board of education;
- correspondence courses arranged by the Ministry of Education;
- community college courses for persons 17 years and older;
- maternity home education programs for non-residents; and
- alternative education programs offered in some localities (e.g. local school boards).

Subsidized housing

Information on lower cost housing and financial assistance with housing is available from:

- Ontario Housing Corporation;
- local housing authorities; and
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Employment counselling

Guidance regarding employment and vocational training programs is provided by:

- Canada Employment (formerly Canada Manpower);
- Ministry of Community and Social Services (for mothers in receipt of Family Benefits); and
- YWCAs and community colleges.

Financial assistance

The municipal, provincial or federal governments may provide financial aid under the following programs:

- General Welfare Assistance;
- Family Benefits; and
- Unemployment Insurance (for those who were employed).

Parenting information

Information on the skills needed to raise children may be obtained through self-help groups for single parents, teenage mothers and single parents whose children have or are likely to have developmental problems.

These groups may be run by:

- local YWCAs;
- children's aid societies; and
- infant stimulation programs (sponsoring organizations may include public health units and hospitals).

Subsidized day care

Either group care or private home day care may be available on a subsidized basis. For information on availability and eligibility get in touch with:

- local day care centres or
- municipal social services departments.

Legal advice

The legal rights of the parents and the child in regard to keeping the child or arranging for adoption can be obtained from:

- children's aid societies;
- legal aid offices; and
- the Official Guardian (Ministry of the Attorney General).

If a young unmarried mother-to-be is unable to remain at home during her pregnancy, she may wish to inquire whether a maternity home has an appropriate program for her. It may not be necessary to stay in a maternity home in order to benefit from the services it provides. Some maternity homes have day programs for non-residents.

Maternity homes

These residences for pregnant women, licensed under the Residential Services Act, are run by voluntary organizations.

Residents receive regular medical attention, are instructed in pre-natal care and are assisted with the delivery of their babies.

The homes provide information on parenting and on the adoption process. Residents make their own decision either to keep and raise their baby or release the baby for adoption.

They assist residents in building their self-esteem and in setting goals for the future. Opportunities are provided for the development of educational, vocational and life skills and advice is given on personal and family problems.

Eligibility

Pregnant women of all ages are accepted, though most residents are teenagers. There are no restrictions respecting religion or ethnicity. Women with physical handicaps or emotional problems are accepted if they are able to function in a group setting. All applicants must show a willingness to participate in the maternity home programs and be able to benefit from the group living experience. Women are admitted provided that no acceptable alternative care is available.

Programs offered

There is usually instruction in health care, life skills, recreation, counselling, parenting, post-natal care and education.

Cost

Each resident is asked to contribute toward the cost of her stay in a maternity home. Rates vary from home to home and are based on individual financial circumstances. Women are not refused admission because of their inability to pay.

Maternity homes in Ontario

Programs offered by maternity homes are varied and an applicant should ensure that she chooses a home that can cater to her specific needs. A list of maternity homes in Ontario follows:

Bethel Home
115 Bonis Avenue
Agincourt, Ontario M1S 3B4
Telephone: (416) 293-2074

Humewood House
40 Humewood Drive
Toronto, Ontario M6C 2W4
Telephone: (416) 651-5657

Rosalie Hall
3020 Lawrence Avenue East
Scarborough, Ontario M1P 2T7
Telephone: (416) 438-6880

St. Martin's Manor
500 Mohawk Road West
Hamilton, Ontario L9C 1X4
Telephone: (416) 389-7411

St. Mary's Home
1081 Cadboro Road
Ottawa, Ontario K1J 7T8
Telephone: (613) 749-2491

St. Monica House
341 Herbert Street
Waterloo, Ontario N2J 1V1
Telephone: (519) 743-0291

The Salvation Army
Bethany Home
450 Pape Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M4K 3P7
Telephone: (416) 461-0217

The Salvation Army
Bethany Home
1140 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 2Z3
Telephone: (613) 725-1733

The Salvation Army
Bethesda Centre
35 Evergreen Avenue
London, Ontario L6J 1A2
Telephone: (519) 438-8371

The Salvation Army
Florence Booth Home
497 North Lillie Street
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7C 4Y8
Telephone: (807) 623-0232

The Salvation Army
Grace Haven
138 Herkimer Street
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 2H1
Telephone: (416) 522-7336

Victor Home
1102 Broadview Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M4K 2S5
Telephone: (416) 425-6348

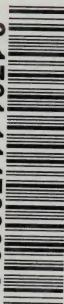


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For more information contact the nearest area office of the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The telephone number will be found in the Ontario government section of the blue pages in the back of your directory.

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